

NSC BRIEFING

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26 June 1957

UN REPORT ON HUNGARY: Soviet-Satellite Reaction

1. Orbit media, questioning the legality of the UN Commission, are laying the groundwork for refusal to approve discussion of the report in the UNGA.
2. Polish Home Service was the only Orbit media to carry a short, factual summary of the report. The East German Home Service carried a few selected quotes with rebuttal. VOA, RFE, and BBC broadcasts of the text got through to Hungarians.
3. Czechs offered first Orbit comment on 20 June.
4. Hungarian comment withheld from domestic audience for first 48 hours.
5. Russian people got first hint of report in brief reference buried in 22 June Pravda article on disarmament.
6. Peiping has not initiated any comment so far. The press and radio have publicized some Hungarian comment.

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Orbit

All media have accused the UN Commission of "conducting intelligence work legalized by the United Nations" and have questioned the legality of the Commission--apparently laying the groundwork for refusal to approve discussion of the report in the UN General Assembly.

Moscow

1. Continuing comment, totalling some 60 broadcasts through 23 June, assails the report as "crude and disgusting" American propaganda--testimony extracted from "traitors to Hungary" in violation of the UN Charter provision against interference in UN members' internal affairs, an effort to smear Soviet foreign policy and embarrass the Socialist camp, and a gambit to divert public attention from disarmament.

2. While some of Moscow's comment has been broadcast and published for domestic consumption, the Russian people have not been given any of the details of the UN report. The first hint of the report for domestic consumption was buried in a Pravda article on disarmament on 22 June

3. Moscow has rebutted only the "conclusions" of the report. This rebuttal was transmitted only in Rumanian and Mandarin among the bloc languages.

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Satellites

1. The Polish Home Service was the only bloc media to carry a short, factual summary of the report.
2. The East German Home Service presented a few selected quotes from the report with rebuttal in the form of selected newspaper reports dated at the time of the uprising.
3. The Hungarian people were not given the text by the regime's media but VOA, RFE, and BBC broadcasts of the text were heard and aroused much popular curiosity. Hungarian comment was beamed only to foreign audiences during the first 48 hours.
4. The Czechs were the first to comment within the Orbit (20 June).
5. Peiping has not initiated any comment so far. The press and radio have publicized some Hungarian comment.

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General -- Propaganda

Western "initiatives" and "plots" in connection with recent developments related to Hungary and South Korea were generally described by Soviet propagandists as attempts to draw public attention away from the necessity of reaching an arms agreement.

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